

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We are deeply concerned by the recent arrests in Turkey of members of the Turkish media. A strong democracy requires both tolerance and transparency in order to thrive, but this decision by the Turkish government to intimidate, arrest, and smother voices opposed to the government is a threat to the very democratic principles that Turkey claims to hold dear.

According to multiple press reports, Ekrem Dumanli, editor-in-chief of Zaman, a highly circulated daily newspaper in Turkey, and Hidayet Karaca, CEO of Samanyolu Media Group were arrested on December 14, 2014, on questionable charges bringing the total number of detained press and media personalities to 29. These members of the media have ties to the Islamic scholar Fethullah Gulen, a known critic of the Erdogan Administration. Unfortunately, Hidayet Karaca is still in detention awaiting trial.

One year prior to these arrests, allegations of corruption were levied at the Erdogan administration. Subsequently, some 400 people (including 150 stated Gulen supporters) were monitored on Twitter and ultimately Turkish access to the social media was blocked. In addition to previous attempts to silence the opposition, these recent arrests have had a chilling effect on freedom, democracy, and economic prosperity for all of Turkey.


As a result, we strongly urge you to reach out to President Erdogan and his administration to encourage a peaceful and appropriate resolution to these cases. A free media must be supported and protected to foster an environment open to constructive political discussion and to ensure freedom of expression for all the Turkish people.

As a strategic ally to the United States in the Middle East, and key member of NATO, we wish to see the Turkish government abandon this course of intimidation and embrace a free press and tolerance of dissenting voices. It is our priority to encourage the Turkish government to fulfill the responsibilities and obligations to their own people.

Sincerely,



Matt Salmon  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver II  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress



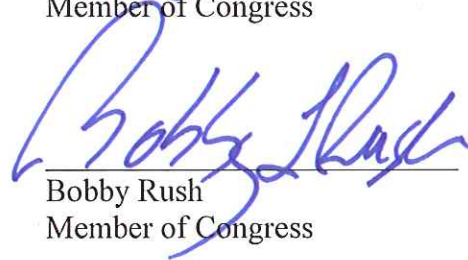
Robert Aderholt  
Member of Congress



Gregg Harper  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress



Danny Davis  
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress



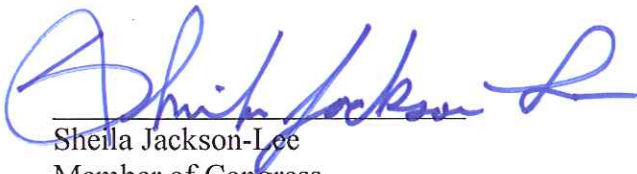
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson-Lee  
Member of Congress



Luis Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress




Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

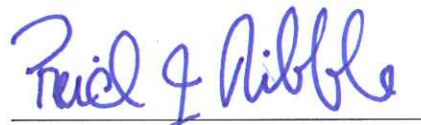


Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress



  
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

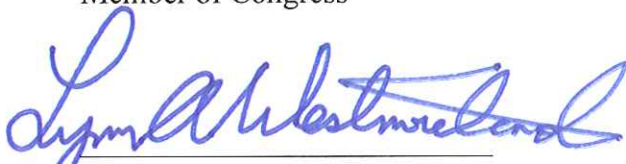
  
French Hill  
Member of Congress

  
Reid Ribble  
Member of Congress


  
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress


  
Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress

  
Lynn Westmoreland  
Member of Congress


  
Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress


  
Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress

  
Aaron Schock  
Member of Congress

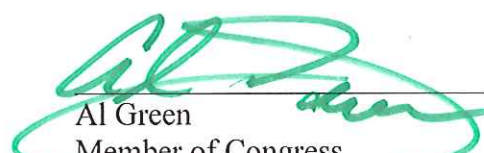
  
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

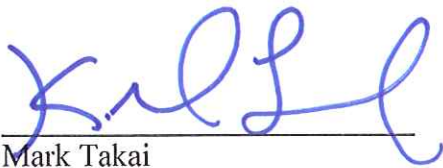
  
Steve Israel  
Member of Congress

  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

  
Trent Franks  
Member of Congress

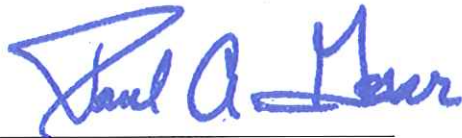
  
Al Green  
Member of Congress



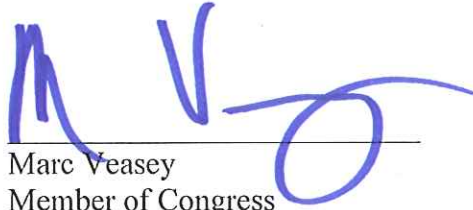
Mark Takai  
Member of Congress



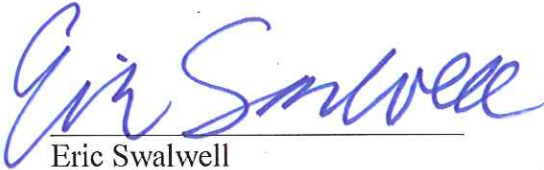
Steven Palazzo  
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar  
Member of Congress



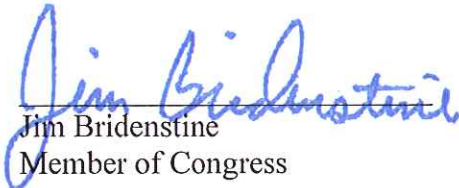
Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress



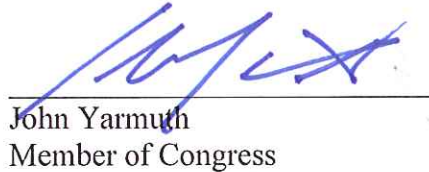
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



Jim Bridenstine  
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



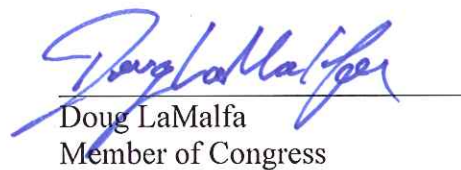
Randy Weber  
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress



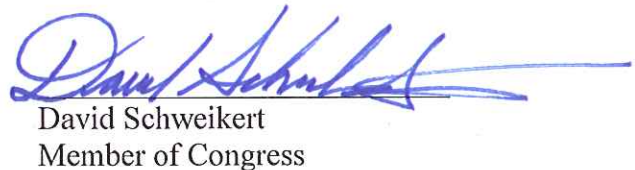
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress



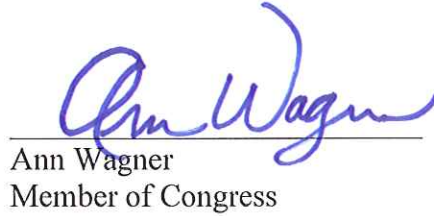
George Holding  
Member of Congress



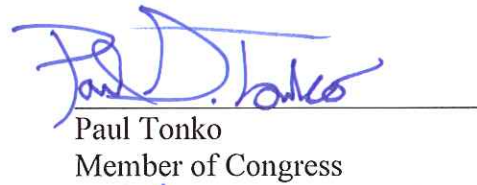
John Duncan  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



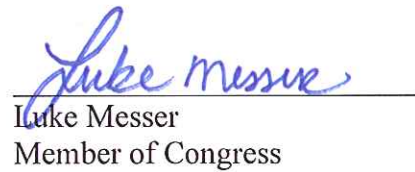
Daniel Kildee  
Member of Congress



Scott Garrett  
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



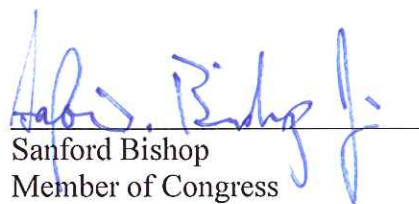
Luke Messer  
Member of Congress



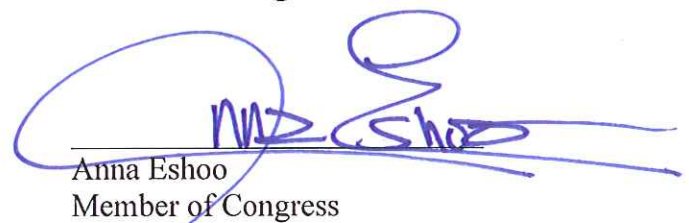
Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress



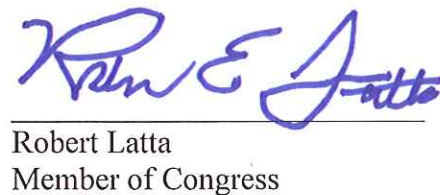
Robert Wittman  
Member of Congress



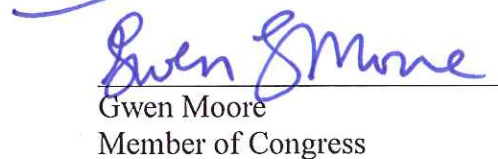
Sanford Bishop  
Member of Congress



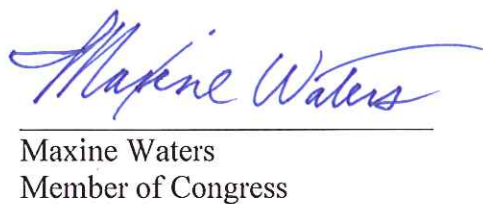
Anna Eshoo  
Member of Congress




Robert Latta  
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Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress





Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



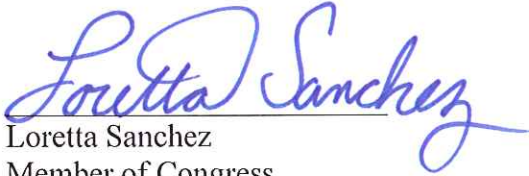
Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress



Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



Grace Napolitano  
Member of Congress



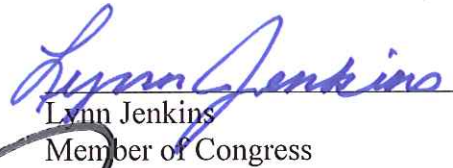
Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



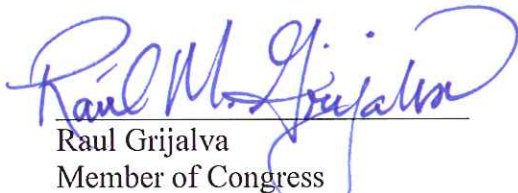
Mike Honda  
Member of Congress



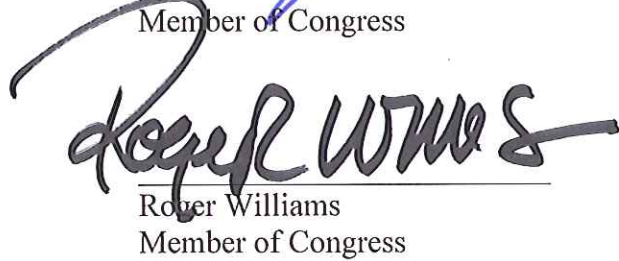
Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress



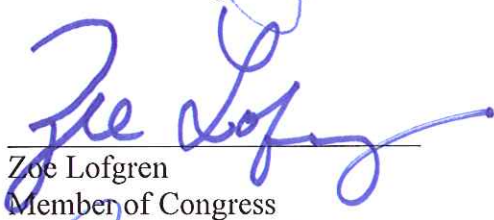
Lynn Jenkins  
Member of Congress



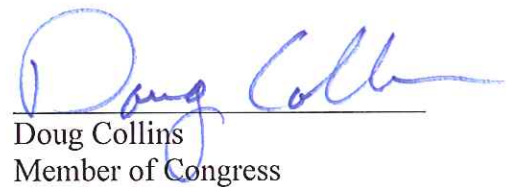
Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress



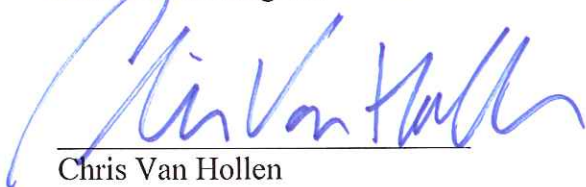
Roder Williams  
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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Doug Collins  
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Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



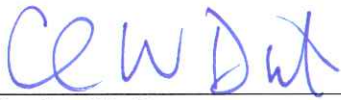
Randy Neugebauer  
Member of Congress



John Delany  
Member of Congress



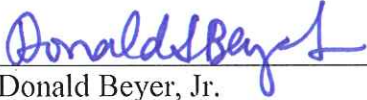
Andy Harris  
Member of Congress



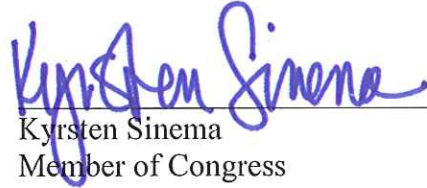
Charles W. Dent  
Member of Congress



Paul Cook  
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Donald Beyer, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema  
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Mimi Walters  
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Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress